

THE KAISER TIREDLESS.

INCESSANTLY AT WORK, EVEN WHILE ILL.

CABINET OFFICERS UNABLE TO KEEP FACE WITH HIM—HIS RECREATION ORDERING THE PROSECUTION OF CERTAIN PAPERS

—THE NAVY ESTIMATES THE INVALID WORKMEN'S PEN-

SION BILL—THE SLAVE TRADE BLOCKADE—

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Berlin, Dec. 1.—The Emperor's prolonged absence from public life has given rise to rumors that he is suffering from an auricular tumor, which is assuming an aggravated form. Semi-official reports state that his illness is simply a severe cold, contracted through exposure during the recent hunt at Hetszingen. No medical advice has been sought beyond that of the household physician. The case complaint slightly increased during the height of the catarrhal fever, but improved with the return of normal health. Although the weather is mild, the Emperor is advised to remain indoors for some days to come. He has been in excellent spirits and has been fit for work throughout the week, receiving visitors and transacting business as usual. He employed part of his enforced leisure in elaborating the details of army and navy reforms. He kept his military cabinet very busy, demanding immediate reports on a variety of questions, his unvarying orders being to reply within twenty-four hours.

The Admiralty officials share the excitement of the War Office, which has been especially stimulated this week by messages from the Emperor referring to the naval estimates, the details of which remain unsettled. The Emperor's order extends into every other department.

After business the Emperor has made the evenings festive. There was a family dinner on Wednesday, at which were present Prince Leopold, the Duke and Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and officers and ladies of the court. On Thursday a banquet was given in honor of Grand Duke and Grand Duchess Vladimir of Russia, and last evening a reception was held, at which the same guests were present.

GERMAN NEWSPAPERS TO BE PROSECUTED.

The Emperor has ordered the prosecution of several papers for publishing that part of the Emperor Frederick's diary which related to the Austro-Prussian war besides the "Kleider Zeitung," a Freiburg organ now being prosecuted under the Emperor's orders. He was especially irritated by the statement of Freiburg papers to the effect that the Empress Victoria exclusively owned the diaries and all the journals of the Emperor Frederick, including a number of unopened documents which were secured by a private seal, and which the ex-Emperor had deposited in the royal archives.

WORK BEFORE THE REICHSTAG COMMISSION.

The Reichstag Commission will begin to consider the budget on Monday, and will sit daily, in order to report before Christmas. The Commission will hear privately more about the armaments that was disclosed in open debate in the Reichstag. Count De Monts, Chief of Admiralty, candidly told the Reichstag that the memorandum on the Navy was drawn up purposely so that foreign nations might not learn more than was necessary. Herr von Bennington, commenting on the estimates, showed that 110,000,000 marks could not possibly cover the cost of the building of twenty-eight vessels, and that the amounts above, apart from the increased expense for crews, made necessary an additional expenditure of 30,000,000 marks.

This feeling of distrust among members of the Reichstag regarding the appropriations for armaments is on the increase. The budget is destined to a closer scrutiny and more opposition than seemed probable.

THE INVALID WORKMEN'S INSURANCE BILL.

Herr Liebknecht's criticism of the invalid workmen's insurance project will assuredly have an influence in modifying the bill. A majority of the members of the Reichstag agree that the annuity secured to an invalid or aged workman is insufficient. Numerous petitions, signed by many thousands of workmen, have been presented to the Reichstag, protesting against both the measures of the annuity and the late date of age-seventy years—when it may be claimed.

Workmen circles also firmly oppose the system proposed, that each workman should carry a book for the recording of payments.

A HIT IN THE SLAVE TRADE CRUSADE.

Prince Bismarck will appear in the Reichstag on the occasion of the debate on colonial affairs. A hit has occurred with England over the East Africa blockade agreement. Lord Salisbury's statement in the House of Lords that Germany did not intend to combine her land and sea operations is in direct variance with the view of the Berlin Govern-

ment. If Bismarck's plans are effected, military action will accompany a blockade of the stations along the coast and for some distance in the interior. The Government holds that a blockade alone would be sufficient.

STOPPING NAVY WORK AT NORFOLK.

MEN TAKEN ON JUST BEFORE ELECTION NOW DROPPED—SHIPS AT THE YARD.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 1.—The recent visit of Chief Naval Constructor T. D. Wilson to the Navy Yard is followed by reports that have caused a great deal of despondency among the several hundred workmen who were added to the force of employes just before election, and the officers attached to the vessels in commission feel blue over the prospects of being relieved from duty within a few days. Those employees who were put to work just before election and were so exuberant over the prospect of being employed during the winter that they voted the Democratic ticket now have no expressions of loyalty for the cause to which they were so faithful; on the contrary, there are murmurings of discontent and declaration that the work here was a bait thrown out for their votes.

It is said that Constructor Wilson was ordered here merely to give a tangible excuse for stopping the work at the Navy Yard on the vessels under repair there, and that it had already been determined by the Navy Department to discontinue repairs because the appropriation for this station had already been expended, though less than five months of the fiscal year have expired. An order was received on Wednesday by Commodore George Brown, commanding of the station, to shut down on all work for a few days in order that the Secretary might determine what amount of work was necessary and which was most urgent.

It will be remembered that three months before election, at the urgent request of Congressman Frank Jones, the Osprey was withdrawn from active service in the North Atlantic Squadron and sent to the Portsmouth (N. H.) Navy Yard for repairs. She was there two or three weeks, during which time "expert" ship carpenters made a thorough inspection and found that seventy-six knees were in such bad condition as to make the vessel unsafe for a sea voyage unless immediately replaced. A few days later she was sent to the Brooklyn Navy Yard to be repaired, and here the seventy-six bad knees were marked for removal. Then came a wall from General Imboden and other Democrats of Virginia for work at the Norfolk Naval Yard, to save the State for Cleveland, and the Osprey was dispatched here, with instructions to stop at Philadelphia and tow along the uncompleted double-turreted monitor Puritan.

The Osprey is now in the dry-dock, and has had some of her planking removed to put in new knees. The vessel is and has been for some time in commission, but the officers' quarters not being habitable while repairs are being made, the officers are living in temporary quarters in one of the yard buildings, fitted up with cots and mess things. About \$26,000 has been thus far expended upon the vessel by the Construction Department alone, and slight repairs are being made to the machinery. The vessel is now to be put out of commission and laid up, the money expended upon her counts for nothing, and the officers, who had made ready for a cruise at a considerable expense to themselves, will be detached and ordered home, and in a little while, probably, will be ordered to other stations for sea-service.

The Peacock, which was sent from the Brooklyn Navy Yard a short time before election, under the distribution system, to have repairs made upon her, also lies here in commission, but it is believed that all work will be stopped upon her, the officers and crew detached and the vessel laid up. Several thousands of dollars have been expended upon her. It was reported a few years ago that she was so rotten that her commander had to put extra lashings upon the gunnery so that they would not work loose. She was to have been the flagship of the North Atlantic Squadron.

The Kettler, which was so hurriedly put into commission at the Portsmouth Navy Yard to go to Hampton Roads to protect American interests, arrived at Hampton Roads two weeks ago. She has had no repairs made, received cool and supplies, and yesterday sailed for the south Atlantic squadron with a new crew for the "battle of Jutland." She is still awaiting the arrival of the "Dreadnaught" and will be delayed until the latter arrives.

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